



COVID-19 Safe Crisis Management Certification Guidance

May 12, 2020

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved a prospective and conditional waiver of Section 6(3)(c) of 704 KAR 7:160 on May 7, 2020. This waiver applies to school personnel who have successfully completed Safe Crisis Management (SCM) certification since Jan. 1, 2019.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certifications issued since that date currently are eligible to be extended through June 30, 2021, upon virtual completion of additional training components outlined in 704 KAR 7:160, Section 6(3).

The KBE issued the waiver of Section 6(3)(c) of 704 KAR 7:160 due to the risk to public health caused by COVID-19 and based on recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH). These recommendations call for the public to practice social distancing, which means staying at home when possible and otherwise maintaining six feet of distance from other individuals.

Successfully and safely completing “simulated experience of administering and receiving physical restraint,” as currently mandated by Section 6(3)(c) of 704 KAR 7:160, requires in-person, face-to-face training exercises, which would not comply with CDC or DPH guidelines and would risk the health and well-being of participating trainers and trainees during the current state of emergency.

However, the theory portion of SCM certification is available online, which enables school personnel recently certified in SCM to virtually re-certify in de-escalation and other strategies that may help defuse crisis situations.

Schools or districts experiencing a SCM-related staff shortage or school personnel seeking new SCM certification who do not meet the terms of the prospective and conditional waiver of 704 KAR 7:160, Section 6(3)(c) should contact the Kentucky Department of Education, which will consider additional regulatory waivers on a case-by-case basis.

In order to protect both staff and students, schools and districts should begin considering changes to procedures used during crisis situations considering the COVID-19 pandemic. It is difficult to formulate complete guidance without knowing what restrictions will be in place when in-person classes resume, but KDE is considering possible scenarios and recommendations to maximize the safety of students and staff and limit the spread of COVID-19.

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